

Horned Grebe Podiceps auritus

Adult alternate Adult basic Summer range map Winter range map

Migration Status	Breeding Habitat	Nest Location	Nest Type	Clutch Size	Incubation	Fledge	Number of Broods	Diet
N/A	Wetland-open water	N/A	N/A	3-6	22-25 days	45-60	usually 1	Fish, Aquatic Invertebrates

Identification Tips:

- Length: 9.5 inches Wingspan: 24 inches
- Sexes similar
- Small, stocky-bodied grebe with a short, thin bill
- Black bill, often with a pale tip
- Blocky head, with a peak at the rearmost portion of the head
- Feet set far back on body and trail awkwardly behind body in flight
- White secondaries visible in flight

Adult alternate:

- Head black with a golden stripe of feathers extending from eye to back of head
- Reddish neck and flanks
- Dark back
- White belly

Adult basic:

- Black cap, hindneck, and back
- White face, foreneck, flanks, and belly

Similar Species: Pied-billed Grebe has thick, horn-colored bill and brown plumage. Red-necked Grebe is much larger, has a longer bill that is yellow at the base and much less contrasty plumage. Eared Grebe is quite similar but always has a peak or topknot at the center of the crown and a thinner bill that is beveled upwards at the tip. In basic plumage it has a darker face with a contrasting white chin, in alternate plumage it is easily distinguished by the golden ray of feathers radiating from behind the eye, and the black neck. Birds in transition between basic and alternate plumage are best disinguished by structural features, as the plumage can be quite variable.

Credits:

Citation:

Gough, G.A., Sauer, J.R., Iliff, M. *Patuxent Bird Identification Infocenter* 1998. Version 97.1. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/Infocenter/infocenter.html

Length and wingspan from:

Robbins, C.S., Bruun, B., Zim, H.S., (1966). *Birds of North America*. New York: Western Publishing Company, Inc.

Clutch size, fledging, brood, and incubation information from:

Ehrlich, P., Dobkin, D., and Wheye, D. (1988). *The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds*. New York. Simon and Schuster Inc.